

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



January 3, 2005

Woonsocket pair plead guilty to trafficking in crack cocaine

James D. Barr, 25, and **Thomas Gaffney**, 24, both of Woonsocket, have pleaded guilty to trafficking in crack cocaine, admitting that they sold a total of 14 grams of crack in September and October.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty pleas, which Gaffney and Barr entered on December 28 before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence. Barr, of 640 Social Street, 3d Floor, and Gaffney, of 433 Front Street, 2d Floor, are detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for March 1.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on September 28 and October 7, **Woonsocket Police** detectives and agents for the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)** observed Gaffney and Barr meet an individual on Robinson Street in Woonsocket and sell that individual two "eight balls" – approximately 1/4 ounce – of crack cocaine. The total weight of the crack cocaine was approximately 14 grams.

Woonsocket Police and ATF agents arrested Gaffney and Barr early in the morning of October 8, a few hours after the October 7 transaction.

Gaffney and Barr pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine base – crack cocaine – and two counts of distributing cocaine base. The statutory maximum penalty for each offense

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is 40 years in federal prison and a \$2,000,000 fine, with a minimum sentence of five years in federal prison. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Woonsocket Police and **ATF** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dambruch is prosecuting it.

-30-

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